THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

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A FAMILY NEWSPAPER: NEUTRAL IN POLITICS.

CLUBS.—FOR TERMS TO CLUBS SEE PROSPECTUS ON NEXT PAGE.

DEVOTED TO MORALITY, PURE LITERATURE, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC NEWS, AGRICULTURE, THE COMMERCIAL INTEREST, SCIENCE, ART AND AMUSEMENT.

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Original Poetry.

CHRISTMAS VERSES.

WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, BY CARRIE GRAY.

"Oh! a merry Christmas to thee,
And a happy bright New Year;"
Ah! the weary heart grows brighter,
As those words fall on the ear;
But the past it brings before us,
And a tear will glisten when
We recall some loved faces missing,
Who was wont to greet us then.

Yes, old Winter now hath bound us,
In his chain of ice and snow,
But the cheerful heart grows warmer,
And fair cheeks still brighter glow;
While the fun-provoking laughter
Flies from lip to lip along,
And the love of years is waken'd
By some old familiar song.

Oh! I welcome "merry Christmas,"
At the cheerful bright fireside;
Where we prize the forms that meet us,
More than all the world beside;
Yes! the time-dimmed eye will brighten
At the music breathing strain,
"Though from each we've long been parted,
We have lived to meet again."

Though our part in life be rugged,
And our way a weary steep,
Oftentimes a gleam of sunshine
Through the blackest clouds will peep;
Or a graceful twining flow'ret,
With its lovely azure dye,
Seems just bursting into beauty,
To relieve the wearied eye.

Now a childish lip is pressing
'Gainst my cheek so worn with care,
[illegible]

Pictures of Life.

THREE MONTHS AFTER DATE.

BY ANDREW HALLIDAY.

[illegible]

Whither should he fly? Ah! a man in an alpaca hat was loitering at the end of ... Mr. Sparkes took the opposite direction ... few steps brought him in view of a ... knobby stick. Sparkes turned ... right. The number of suspicious men ... hats, carrying knobby sticks, about ... that morning was incredible. They ... every post, started up at every ... stood sentry at every turning. At ... much walking, Mr. Sparkes found ... Chancery Lane. Looking up ... served written on the blind of ... "Pluckett, Officer of the Sheriff of Middlesex." Like the little birds, which ... be fascinated by the glare of the ... Mr. Sparkes felt himself rooted to ... the proximity in which he found ... danger which he sought to avoid. ... a moment transfixed with terror, ... whether to fall down in a faint, or ... nearest alley. Great emergencies ... bold resolutions. At that moment, ... caught sight of a card in Pluckett's ... It was inscribed, "Lodgings for single men." The next instant, Mr. Sparkes ... the sheriff's officer's steps knocking ... sheriff's officer's door. A burly man ... crowned hat, answered the summons.

"You have lodgings to let, I observe," ... Sparkes.

"Yes, I have," replied the stout man.

"Can I see them?"

"Certainly."

Mr. Sparkes entered, and the stout man proceeded to show him the rooms.

"Have I the pleasure," inquired Sparkes, "of speaking to Mr. Pluckett?"

"You have, sir; Pluckett, officer ...

[illegible]

The Olio.

[illegible]

Our Picture Gallery.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

[SEE ARTICLE.]

Selected Sketch.

THE CAPTURE OF CONSTANTINOPLE BY THE TURKS.

[illegible]

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

[SEE ENGRAVING.]

A correspondent of the Illustrated London News, who we have to thank for the above view of the present appearance of Port Phillip, emphatically writes:—"Let it be remembered that the site upon which the city stands was, only nineteen years ago, the resort of the tattooed savage, and the feeding-ground of the wild kangaroo." Our correspondent, who is evidently a lover of facts and figures, adds:—

"The population at the former period was about 700; and at the latter it had increased to nearly 300,000, or thereabouts. The first public sale of land, which took place on the 1st June, 1837, averaged £70 per acre, and some of the very same land sold at the rate of £120,000 the acre the year before last (1853).

"The customs duties collected in 1837 was £2,000, and the probable income under the same head for the present year is taken at £1,457,700; income from gold, £320,000; from licences, £150,000; from fines, £69,000; from fees of office, £57,000; from assessment stock, £70,000; from postage, £45,000; from port and harbor dues, £30,000; auxiliary to these there are other items bringing the revenue up to £2,000,000."

An interesting resumé of the present aspect of the city is given in The Land and Building News, No. 41, whence we select a few items:—

The city of Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, comprehending a municipality and suburbs, is situated on the banks of the river Yarra Yarra, and on the shore of Hobson's Bay, in the harbor of Port Phillip. ...

[illegible]

... their shoulders, are lighting their pipes at a candle, or ... digging apparatus. The whole street abounds with ... shops, which supply tools, ... boots, clothes, and so on. You are amazed at the price of every article. ... are continually going on. Amid all this there were open carriages ... with diggers and their ... at the rate of £2 per hour. ... One of the diggers asked the hire of a cab for the day. "... more than you'd like," said the Jarvie, ... "What is it?" asked the digger. "Seven pounds for the day." "There is ten," said the fellow; "you can light your pipe with the difference."

THE BLIND.

Blindness is not always to the blind so great a privation—so serious an obstacle to the exercise of the faculties, either of mind or body—as those who enjoy the power of vision are apt to suppose that it must necessarily be. Most readers will remember to have read of at least two decisive instances to the contrary: that of Dr. Sanderson, the eminent mathematician of the last century, who was recommended to the professorship of mathematics at the University of Cambridge, by Sir Isaac Newton, and who, though completely blind, could add, subtract, multiply, divide, extract the square and cube roots, and solve abstruse problems in trigonometry and algebra as correctly, and almost as rapidly, as Sir Isaac himself; and that of Mr. Metcalf, the engineer, who was stone-blind from his birth, and yet planned and ...

[illegible]

CHRISTMAS CAROL.

[illegible]

SATURDAY EVENING POST.

...please remit to us direct.

All persons addressing letters to us should be careful to give the name of the State, as well as of the town, in which they live. *All letters must be post-paid.*

Subscribers wishing their paper changed, will please give the name of the Post-Office to be changed *from*, as well as the Post-Office they wish it hereafter sent to.

We trust that such of our old friends, the Post-Masters, as do not feel inclined to take advantage of our liberal offers themselves, will show our Prospectus to other influential and responsible persons who will be willing to raise Clubs, &c.

VIVIA:

OR THE SECRET OF POWER.

We design commencing this story by Mrs. Southworth, in our next number—the first of the new year. We shall endeavor at the same time, to maintain the usual variety of the Post—in order that those who have but little liking for fiction, may find our miscellaneous and news departments as entertaining and instructive as ever.

A NOVELET FROM MRS. HENTZ.

Our readers will be pleased to learn that we have made an arrangement with Mrs. Caroline Lee Hentz, author of "Marcus Warland," "Linda," "The Planter's Northern Bride," &c., for an original Novelet from her talented and popular pen, which we design laying before them at the close of Mrs. Southworth's novelet.

ENGLISH POLICY.

It has often been charged against the wealthy iron-masters of England, that they would occasionally subject themselves to great losses for the purpose of breaking down the competition against them in the United States; but many have hitherto supposed this assertion the mere cry of interested parties. From a recent official paper published in England, however, the fact seems to be placed beyond all question. The Report of the Commissioners appointed under an Act of Parliament to inquire into the state of the population of the Mining Districts, contains the following passage:—

"I believe that the laboring classes general-...

[illegible]

The foolish denunciation of the *London Times*, it is evident, did not represent the feelings of the people of England. In many of the English journals, the term "fratricidal" is applied as descriptive of the character of a war with the United States. It would indeed be a contest between brothers—having, in the main, a common ancestry, speaking the same language, and drinking at the same great founts of Literature and Freedom.

Testimonial to Mr. Godey.—We are indebted to the Committee of Arrangements for an invitation to the entertainment given in honor of Mr. Louis A. Godey, of the Lady's Book. Mr. Godey has been engaged in conducting his magazine for about twenty-five years, and its success has been of a very gratifying character. Mr. John Grigg presided at the entertainment, assisted by Messrs. H. C. Carey and Abraham Hart. Speeches were made by Morton McMichael, Robert Morris, W. B. Reed, Judge Knox, &c., and we judge from the accounts there was a good time generally.

Kansas.—Our readers will be pleased to hear that all present danger of a collision has passed in Kansas—the Missourians having returned to their homes. Accounts differ, it will be seen, as to the terms upon which the difficulty was settled.

New Publications.

Meister Karl's Sketch Book. By Charles G. Leland. Published by Parry & McMillan, Philadelphia. A well written volume, containing a number of amusing and interesting things.

A Christmas Wreath. By Ella Rodman. Published by Parry & McMillan, Philada.

The Good Time Coming. By T. S. Arthur. The author says "There is a good time coming, but we must work patiently, and look in the right direction. Perhaps our meaning will be plainer after our book is read." Published by J. W. Bradley, Philada.

The Prince of the House of David; or, ...

[illegible]

THE WAR.

[illegible]

...ability of drawing back when once entered upon a quarrel, should deter every individual and every nation from lightly taking that first step which leaves the domain of peace and enters upon that of war.

Reasonable Security for the Future, is necessarily now the demand of the Allies. With less than this they cannot be satisfied. Is Russia prepared to grant such Reasonable Security? Upon the determination of this question probably hangs the prospect of peace. Believing that Russia is not prepared to do anything more than trifle, and endeavor to pass off counterfeit pledges for real ones, we have very little hope of a speedy termination of the war.

CONGRESS.

We have been disposed to allow the House of Representatives a reasonable time to ascertain its preference for a Speaker—but that reasonable time we believe now to be quite exhausted.

It is not so new a thing, the present aspect of parties in the House, as to render an organization difficult. It simply needs the passage of a resolution such as has been several times proposed, ordering that if a Speaker be not elected within a certain number of ballots, thereafter a plurality shall elect.

The great difficulty appears to be that a small minority of the members wish to force the majority into their traces—while some of them cherish the additional hope of being themselves eventually the favored man.

But there is a time for all things—and the time for political coquetry, and adroit wire-pulling, is now quite run out; and the country is getting tired of so dull a farce, played at the heavy cost of eight dollars a day for each performer.

Neither are the performances much bettered by the long-winded speeches "defining the positions" of the would-be great men in the House. The only "position" that is now in order to be "defined," is a position for the transaction of business. Until that is done, all speech-making should be resolutely cut off. If one or two of the members should explode in consequence of such an interdict, it would be perhaps a good thing for the country.

So, go to work, gentlemen. Adopt the Plurality rule—and thus force a majority choice, if that be possible. At all events, force an election.

A Mistake, Gentlemen.—A poem on Court-...

[illegible]

Clippings.

[illegible]

...and the fear of the thunder sets out forward ... with the wonderful velocity of thirteen miles in a minute, but does not reach us till ten, twenty, thirty, and even fifty seconds have elapsed; it flashes, and the bright image starts at the inconceivable speed of seven millions of miles in a minute, but does not strike the retina till long after the celestial flame is extinguished, and the clouds are at rest.

☞ The ex-bankers, Paul, Strahan and Bates, recently convicted of embezzlement, were in the habit of opening their banking-house with prayer.

General News.

From Kansas.—A telegraphic account dated St. Louis, Dec. 19th, says:—"We have despatches from Independence, dated yesterday, stating that the trouble at Lawrence has been settled by the people promising to deliver up the offenders, obey the laws of the Territory, recognise the Governor as such, and conduct themselves for the future as a law-abiding people. They refuse, however, to deliver up their arms. The volunteers from Missouri have been disbanded and have returned home."

From the Missouri Democrat, of the 20th.

We had an interview, last evening, with Gen. Shankland, just returned from the scene of the late difficulties in Kansas, giving us very interesting information of the present position of affairs in the Territory. He informs us that the report published in the city yesterday afternoon, of the surrender of their arms by the people of Lawrence, is totally incorrect. The propositions of peace came from Atchison and Shannon, at a council held in Lawrence, last Friday and Saturday, at which a treaty of peace was concluded. To the demand made upon them to obey the laws and deliver up their arms, the people of Lawrence responded by professing their constant willingness to do the former, but flatly refusing to yield the latter point.

On these terms hostilities were terminated, and the Missouri troops received orders on Sunday morning to disband. The Missourians were armed with revolvers and double-barrelled shot guns, and were for the most part mounted. They were encamped at Wakarusa, on the road from Lawrence to Westport, six miles from the former place, and at Lecompton, on the Kansas River, ten miles West of Lawrence, being at no time more than six hundred strong at Wakarusa, or more than two hundred at Lecompton. The Free State men amounted to seven hundred at Lawrence, all armed with Sharpe's rifles, while two hundred more could easily have been gathered from the adjoining country, and ...

[illegible]

NEWS ITEMS.

[illegible]

FOREIGN NEWS.

[illegible]

POLITICAL NEWS.

[illegible]

THE STOCK MARKET.

[illegible]

The Markets.

PHILADELPHIA MARKETS.

[illegible]

SATURDAY

EVENING POST.

PHILADELPHIA:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1856.

Congressional News.

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

SENATE.

On the 15th, Mr. Toombs presented resolutions passed by the Legislature of South Carolina, in favor of the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution.

Mr. Seward gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to prohibit the introduction of slaves into Kansas and Nebraska territories.

On the 16th, Mr. Seward presented a memorial praying for indemnity for French Spoliations prior to 1800.

Mr. Douglas presented a memorial from citizens of Illinois, asking that the Kansas bill be now modify so as to submit the Constitution to a vote. Several of the last session was received at an late period that it was impossible to procure a copy before the adjournment of the session, upon which the Private Message was predicated, and on account of the great interest attached to it, that the statements were good under the treaty ceding Louisiana to the United States, in 1803. The Secretary of the State Department above this not to be the fact. He would, however, respond more at length at a future day.

Messrs. Bradbead and Crittenden presented resolutions from Kentucky, relative to the location of the Navy Yard.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, submitted a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Navy for the present, cost, and the condition of the Navy Yard at Memphis.

Mr. Clayton thought that the subject should not be taken up at present.

After further debate, the resolution was laid over.

Mr. Douglas called up the Kansas bill.

On the 18th, Mr. Brodhead, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a bill to carry into effect the stipulations of the treaty with Russia, and for other purposes.

Mr. Trumbull presented evidence, showing that he was entitled to his seat. Referred to the Committee.

Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in favor of the Kansas bill.

Mr. Pugh moved to lay the resolution on the table. The motion was finally agreed to—yeas 104; nays 107.

Mr. Sapp offered a resolution that after to-day the House vote only by ballot, until the completion of the election of Speaker by a choice of a majority.

Mr. Petty said the House had decided to-day that it would not proceed to a ballot (majority). Now, they were told that they could not proceed to a ballot (majority). Now, they were told that they could not proceed to a ballot (majority). Now, they were told that they could

Selected Poetry.

VOWS!

Life in Paris.

City Scenes.

SHAWL WAISTS.

JOHN BULL ON STILTS.

Wit and Humor.

New Inventions.

CLARKE'S CHIMNEY SAFE.

Agricultural.

The Riddler.

Selected Articles.

For Housekeepers.

The Ohio.